

Albany Park Baptist Church **NEWS**

Motto for 2007 — “See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and His arm rules for Him... He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40v10

Waiting

“I’m still waiting”, sang Diana Ross and the Supremes. They could well be members of Albany Park at the moment, for that is what we’re doing, waiting for God; waiting for His will to be revealed to us. We wait because we believe what He says, that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. I hope that is what we’re still doing, and if we are, we won’t be disappointed. He will bless us

with renewed life and passion and with a renewed ministry to the community.

Are you still waiting expectantly and excitedly, or has it all become a secondary issue as life with its many demands and distractions crowd in?

Let me encourage you to continue to wait on Him, to seek Him with all of your heart, for He really does reward those who earnestly seek Him.

Neil



Cxxxx Fxxxx, Axxx Cxxxx and Jxx Axxxxxx at the Global Day of Prayer.

June 2007

<i>BMS Birthdays</i>	p 1
<i>BMS Stamps</i>	p 3
<i>Bold Step of Faith</i>	p 3
<i>Church Diary</i>	p 2
<i>Data Protection Act</i>	p 3
<i>Fellowship News</i>	p 2
<i>Global Day of Prayer</i>	p 4
<i>In Brief</i>	p 2
<i>Cleaners Wanted</i>	
<i>Directory Changes</i>	
<i>Fellowship Fund</i>	
<i>Jim Winter</i>	
<i>Sleepover</i>	
<i>Strawberry Tea</i>	
<i>May Giving</i>	p 3
<i>Transformation</i>	p 4
<i>Waiting</i>	p 1
<i>Pictures</i>	
<i>Aaron Andrew Jones</i>	p 2
<i>Global Day of Prayer</i>	p 1 & 4
<i>Sleepover</i>	p 3
<i>Advert insert</i>	
<i>Smile Open Day</i>	
<i>Vinesong live</i>	

**BMS Birthdays
this month**

**No Birthdays
this month**

Albany Park Baptist Church
Stansted Crescent,
Bexley, Kent, DA5 3JB
www.albanyparkbc.org.uk

Pastor: Rev Neil Abbott
☎ 020 8308 0591
e-mail: neil.abbott@tesco.net

Secretary: Geraldine Alliston,
☎ 01322 522599
e-mail: allistonhome@aol.com

Treasurer: David Keep,
☎ 020 8302 3052
e-mail: david.keep@virgin.net

Editor: Joan Swain,
☎ 020 8300 3977

Church Diary

June

Sun 3 10.30am Morning Worship - Rev Neil Abbott
 Mon 4 8.00pm Deacons
 Wed 6 7.30 for 8 pm Worship on Wednesday
 Sun 10 10.30am Morning Worship - Rev Neil Abbott
 Wed 13 7.30 for 8 pm Worship on Wednesday
 Sun 17 10.30am Morning Worship - Rev Neil Abbott
 Wed 20 7.30 for 8 pm Worship on Wednesday
 Sun 24 10.30am **SUNDAY CLUB ANNIVERSARY**
 – Phil Moore – London City Mission
 Wed 27 7.30 for 8 pm Worship on Wednesday
 Sat 30 2.00pm Smile International Open Day at Crofton Baptist Church (see advert)

July

Sun 1 10.30am Morning Worship - Rev Neil Abbott
 Wed 4 7.30 for 8 pm Worship on Wednesday
 Sun 8 10.30am Morning Worship - Rev Neil Abbott
 Wed 11 8.00pm Church Members Meeting

Open to God sessions will be held every **Wednesday from 10 - 11am** and **Thursday from 11am - 2 pm**. Come when you can. Stay as long as you wish. This is a time for quiet meditation and prayer.

Times and venues for **House Prayer Meetings** will be announced on the preceding Sunday.

Fellowship News



It was a joy to celebrate with **Axxx and Cxxx Jxxx** on 20th May when they presented their baby son **Axxx Axxxx** in a service of Dedication. We pray that **Axxx** will come to know the Lord as his personal Lord and Saviour. **Axxx** has been away receiving treatment for his back which continues to trouble him. Please pray for him.

We praise the Lord that **Fxxx Bxxxx** is now well enough to join us for worship and that **Dxxxx Txxxx** is recovering well from a recent operation.

Please pray for **Pxxx and**

Sxxx Gxxxx and family following the recent death of **Pxxx's** mother. **Pxxx's** father is also in hospital.

Continue to pray for those in the fellowship who are unwell, especially **Jxx Exxxx** who is making steady progress but still unable to work; and those who are not able to get to Church these days, including **Vxxx Dxxxx, Mxxxx Kxxx, Dxxxx Sxxxx, Mxxx Wxxx** and **Exxx Yxxx**.

Pray for **Cxxxx Fxxxx** as she prepares for her new role in the Church and with CRIBS and

looks for affordable housing (see article on page 3). Pray also for the **Wxxxx** family as they prepare to move house and also for **Rxxxx Lxxxx** who

is trying to purchase a bungalow.

Continue to pray for our **young people** in the middle of major exams.

In Brief

Cleaners wanted

We still need another couple to join the Church cleaning rota. This involves about an hour's work on a Saturday morning once every six weeks.

Directory Changes

From 8th June **Gxxxx** and **Jxxxx Wxxxx's** address will be:

xx xxxxx xxxx,
 Sidcup,
 Kent,
 DA14 xxx

Tel. hopefully unchanged.

Lxx Kxx and **Jxxxx Bxxxx** have new email addresses. They are:

xxxxxx@btinternet.com
 xxxxxxxx@btinternet.com

Fellowship Fund

The last Church Meeting agreed that we would have a special collection at each Communion Service for those in need in the fellowship. From time to time people encounter severe financial problems because of illness, redundancy, family problems or an unexpected bill. Their needs aren't often apparent to other people. Gifts of money or non-perishable items (with a long use by date) are needed and will be allocated at the discretion of the Diaconate to those most in need. Thank you to all who gave last month. The next collection will be on Sunday 17th June.

Jim Winter

Last month we reported the death of Jim Winter. We have since received copies of some of the tributes given at his funeral.

Adrian Scarfe described him as a man with an unwavering faith which he spoke and lived day by day. Adrian described Albany Park as a family to Jim. He loved the Church so much.

He volunteered and worked tirelessly in many ways, especially with young people. He was always happy to help and his personal appointments never seemed to clash with Church commitments.

His life touched so many who now give glory to God for him. People's faith and trust in the Lord were strengthened by him, while others discovered the living God of miracles. God had used him to demonstrate to the world once again that he is indeed the Author of life and hope.

His daughter, Joy, described the many pleasures in Jim's life ranging from Match of the Day, posh ice cream, waves breaking on the shore and his love of music. He was passionate about many issues - conservation, fair trade, equality and freedom. He was an involved parent, preferring family life to social gatherings. She described his generosity and wisdom and growing up in a secure framework with consistent and fair discipline.

Joy and Jim's son, Norman, and their families would like to say 'Thank You' for the kind messages of sympathy they have received from the fellowship at Albany Park.

Sleepover

Congratulations to our seven young people who did a sleepover for Smile International to help orphans and those needy families living with HIV/Aids in Africa. It is still not too late to sponsor them.

Strawberry Tea

Hxxxx, Jxxxx and **Jxxxx Sxxx** would like to invite members of the Church family to a Strawberry Tea at their home from 2pm on Sunday 24th June to mark **Jxxx's** 1st birthday.



Sleepover, before? or after?

BMS Stamps

We are still looking for someone to take on the role of our BMS stamp agent now that Rose Stellman feels unable to continue.

Since the late 1920s, the BMS Stamp Bureau has been raising money for BMS World Mission by gathering and selling used postage stamps and other collectibles. In 1928, this first appeared in the BMS accounts as a contribution of £60; now, with your help, it raises several thousand pounds each year.

Stamps, and other collectible items such as coins, medals and cards are collated at the BMS Stamp Bureau, who then sell them on to collectors and dealers. The income raised is passed on to BMS to support their work of changing lives around the world.

We are looking for someone who will:

- encourage people to collect used stamps from home, schools, offices or shops where they work

- manage the stamp collection box in the church
- organise stamp-trimming and sorting sessions as an opportunity for a chat and a coffee together
- send the stamps to the BMS Stamp Bureau.

The Bureau also welcomes stamp collections, in whole or in part, stamp albums, stockbooks and stamp collecting equipment of all types. They also welcome other collectible items such as

- Coins and notes – foreign and pre-decimal British
- Medals and badges – especially military, police or fire service
- Postcards (especially old ones), cigarette and tea cards
- Pre-1950 greetings cards – old Christmas or birthday cards but not recent ones.

Please remember them when you next have a declutter!
BMS Stamp Bureau,
Baptist House, PO Box 49,
129 Broadway, Didcot,
OX11 8XA

Bold Step of Faith

At our last church meeting we reviewed the way forward in the light of our period of reflection during Lent. Most members have been engaged in a very personal journey of inward searching, reflection and purification, out of which a deepened relationship with Jesus has become very evident. Some people are beginning to feel the Lord's call on their lives for new areas of Ministry. Others are feeling it is time to lay down or change their roles and devote themselves to new areas of service.

We had discerned no clear revelation from the Lord on our way forward as a church. This may be His way of telling us that there is still unfinished business to complete and that we need to get our foundations right before He is ready to start building on them again. It could also mean that he wants us to clear the decks so that we may be free to embark step by step on completely new challenges.

The meeting therefore decided, by an overwhelming majority, that we should continue to keep activities on hold while we continue to pray for His leading.

The period of reflection has however provided one significant answer to prayer concerning youth work. The meeting agreed unanimously to acknowledge the Lord's calling of Carole Farley as a part-time Youth Development Worker, to work in partnership with CRIBS for the other half of her time. The full details of the arrangement are still being sorted out, but it is envisaged that Carole's role will be:

- to provide supplementary support to the current children's and youth work;
- to provide a link via CRIBS

between local schools and the church;

- to work alongside the Counselling service on cases involving young people;
- to help address contemporary challenges from a Christian perspective, eg drugs, sex etc;
- to act as a mentor to help young people to mature in faith.

This means that Carole will be giving up her job as a social worker in order to engage in full-time Christian ministry.

Her work with CRIBS will focus on the schools in our neighbourhood, thereby providing a wonderful opportunity to reach thousands of children for Christ.

The meeting agreed to commit £9,000 per year from the John Jones legacy over the next three years to this project. Carole will need to raise at least a further £9,000 per annum from sponsorship both from within the Church and outside. She needs your prayer, your loving and practical support, your financial support and affordable accommodation near to the Church.

This is a great step of faith for the Church and we face exciting and challenging days ahead. We therefore ask you seriously to pray about your involvement in and support for this ministry and to complete one of the pledge forms as soon as possible.

May Giving

General Fund	06/05/07	£428
	13/05/07	£577
	20/05/07	£441
	27/05/07	£501
Insurance claim		£820
Gifts		£130
Total for month		£2897
Expenditure for month		£3274
The figures in this table include amounts given under gift aid.		

Data Protection Act Albany Park Baptist Church

The Diaconate is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Act and personal data may be processed for general church purposes.

Global Day of Prayer

Thousands came together at Upton Park, East London to pray on Pentecost Sunday, 27th May, at the Global Day of Prayer (GDOP). Joining the throng were a coach load from Albany Park, Sidcup and Foots Cray Baptist Churches. All braved the cold temperatures and heavy rains on Sunday to pray 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done'.

Organisers estimated that some 25,000 Christians took part in the London event, which united Christians from all denominations in praying for transformation across London and the thousands of churches across the city.

Pastor Jonathan Oloyede of Glory House, one of the chief visionaries behind the West Ham event, said: "I feel that a new foundation has been laid for the churches in London and that this is just the beginning of a new journey of unity and collaboration, that the Kingdom of God is actually beginning to emerge in the church."

Tim Hughes warmed up the stadium with praise classics including 'How great Thou art', 'We want to see Jesus lifted high' and his own global smash 'Here I am to Worship', as children processed in with flags of the world around the stadium.

The heavy rains paused for a few hours while Christian leaders, including the Bishop of Barking and Chair of GDOP London, the Rt Rev David Hawkins, and Bishop Wayne Malcolm of Christian Life City, took to the stage to pray The Lord's Prayer.

At one point, prayers for the world were said in different languages. Elizabeth Batha of Christian Solidarity Worldwide led prayers for the millions of Christians worldwide who face persecution because of their faith, particularly in China, Burma and North Korea, where the word 'God' continues to be banned.

"Stop the Traffik" highlighted with a short film piece the plight

of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who are trafficked against their will each year.

Rev Nims Obunge of The Peace Alliance made a heartfelt prayer for reconciliation and unity among the churches. "What we have today is history in the making. God is doing something again and it's great He did it on Pentecost Sunday. People have been crying out for unity and a "new day" in the church," he said, "and I think today is that new day." He continued: "When there is unity, no matter what the challenges are or the oppositions, everything gets fixed. Whether it's guns, knives, family breakdown, the solution lies in God and lies in the church coming together as one to work on those issues. Where there is unity there is power for change."

The theme song 'Your Kingdom Come' was led by Geraldine Latty and the GDOP choir, while Patti Boulaye and the Royal Holloway Choir sang the beautiful Lord's Prayer from the African Sanctus.

Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, 29th Chapter and One hundred hours all stirred the

crowds into praise and worship as the event continued through the afternoon. In front of the stage a troupe of dancers braved the cold and wet weather and used banners and flags in beautifully choreographed worship which was projected onto big screens.

The next big prayer event in London will take place on 7 July 2007 – or 07/07/07 as it is being referred to – which will bring thousands of Christians together again to pray at all the town halls in the capital. The 07/07/07 event is a church-wide effort to rededicate the capital to God.

Looking to the future, the Bishop of Barking said that the West Ham event was only the beginning of something that would grow year by year towards the 2012 Olympics. He called on more churches to get involved. "The more churches can come together with their different styles of worship and contributions, the more we will build something really powerful in translating prayer into transformative action around our communities, around London and around our nation," he said.

"Despite our differences,

which the media love to talk about, what we have in common is vastly more important and today has been a day to celebrate and demonstrate the power of us coming together in prayer, worship and celebration."

Pastor Oloyede encouraged people to get involved with the work of movements like Stop the Traffik and city-wide initiatives like Soul in the City, as well as A Year for London – the year of non-stop prayer which ends 31 December.

Bishop Malcolm, meanwhile, encouraged the crowds to pray and contribute financially to the vision to fill Wembley with 90,000 Christians for GDOP 2008. "I would love to see Christians praying, rocking and worshipping until midnight next year!" he shared.

As we travelled home hoarse, glowing and reflecting on the experience of the event, the wonderful music and worship and the challenges facing Christians today, perhaps the verse that came to mind was "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts 2v1. It was an inspiring experience.

Who scored?

